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Docket No.: 249212013300
(PATENT)

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Dated: June 2, 2004

Signature:

Peter J. Yim
(Peter J. Yim)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Patent Application of:
George A. SALIBA

Application No.: 09/577,637

Group Art Unit: 2177

Filed: May 24, 2000

Examiner: M. Ali

For: DATA STORAGE DEVICES FOR LARGE-
SIZE DATA STRUCTURES

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Reply Brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer, Paper No. 20, dated April 2, 2004 in the above-referenced matter.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate.

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REMARKS

Appellants respectfully request consideration of the following remarks in view of the Examiner's Answer mailed on April 2, 2004.

I. Appeal Conference

The Examiner's Answer listed as conferee Shahid Alam and Alford Kindred, both listed as Primary Examiners with Art Unit 2172. M.P.E.P. 1208 states that one of the participants of an appeal conference should be a supervisory patent examiner (SPE). Appellants request that the Board confirm that one of the participants was an SPE to confirm that a proper appeal conference has been held.

II. Examiner's Response to Appellants' Arguments

In responding to Appellants' argument that the Belsan reference fails to disclose a logical cylinder located entirely on a portion of a single recording medium, the Examiner stated that the Belsan reference discloses, "[f]urther, logical tracks are organized into logical cylinders, each of which is the collection of all logical tracks within a redundancy group that can be accessed at a common logical actuator position." This disclosure can be found in column 16, lines 8-12 of the Belsan reference.

Appellants assert that the above cited disclosure contradicts rather than supports the Examiner's assertion that the logical cylinder disclosed in the Belsan reference is on a single recording medium. In particular, as set forth in more detail on pages 6 and 7 in Appellants' Brief on Appeal, the Belsan reference discloses that a redundancy group contains N+M disk drives (column 16, line 3). Thus, because each of the logical cylinders disclosed in the Belsan reference "is the collection of all logical tracks within a redundancy group that can be accessed at a common logical actuator position," each logical cylinder spans multiple disk drives rather than being on a single recording medium.

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Additionally, the phrase "common logical actuator position" only has meaning in the context of multiple disk drives. As is well known in the art, a single disk drive has an actuator that moves multiple heads between multiple platters within the disk drive to read and write data. Thus, a "common logical actuator position" can only exist between multiple disk drives rather than on a single recording medium.

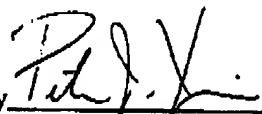
In contrast to the logical cylinders disclosed in the Belsan reference, independent claim 1 recites that the logical cylinder is "located entirely on a portion of the magnetic tape." Independent claim 8 recites that the logical cylinder extends "along the longitudinal recording direction of the single magnetic tape" and "located entirely on a portion of the single magnetic tape." Independent claim 16 recites that the logical cylinder is "located entirely on a portion of the single storage medium." Independent claim 21 recites "a logical cylinder spanning a finite length on the recording medium, with all data for the entire file being stored in a single logical ring on a single recording medium, the logical cylinder being located entirely on a portion of the single recording medium." Independent claim 26 recites, "the logical cylinder being located entirely on a portion of the single recording medium."

Thus, Appellents respectfully request reversal of the rejection of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 that may be required by this Reply Brief to the Examiner's Answer, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing attorney docket no. 249212013300.

Dated: June 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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